

Linda Day
1485 W. Minarets
Fresno, CA 93711-0518

May 4, 2005

RE: WT Docket No. 01-309

Dear Commissioner Copps:

I am writing to request your support to continue the requirement that wireless providers offer live phones for consumers to "try before they buy." This is especially important for people with hearing loss!

I worked very closely on these issues for a wireless provider for many years. I applaud the manufacturers for the progress they have made in hearing aid compatibility. I am excited to see CHOICES when I shop for a wireless phone. These choices mean more quality of life for people with hearing loss. They level the playing field and make our life a little easier. Wireless accessibility has been a long and tedious process, but many phones are now in fact, hearing aid compatible. **Consumers will not know of this progress in accessibility if they are not allowed to try phones before they purchase them.**

I believe it is the obligation of the wireless provider to have functional phones for consumers to demonstrate to determine whether there is interference with their particular type of hearing aid. Additionally, phones vary in volume and the shape of the phone's earpiece plays a significant role in sound quality. Many people who wear hearing aids do not have T-coils and may remove the aid and use the phone. Even those with T-coils may choose to remove the hearing aid if the volume is adequate. These are *personal choices* and having the opportunity to try these options is vital to our ability to purchase the most accessible phone for our particular hearing needs. When we sign a contract for two years, we want to do so with confidence that there will be phones we can hear on throughout that period of time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Day

Linda Day
Late Deafened Adult